09/684,601, filed on October 6, 2000. The priority of this prior application is expressly claimed and the disclosure of this prior application is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please revise the abstract as follows:

The present invention describes a method to detect connective tissue pathologies associated with Graves' disease ophthalmopathy and other antibody mediated inflammatory autoimmune diseases. The detection method comprises obtaining a sample from a patient suffering from an antibody-mediated inflammatory autoimmune disorder and measuring Interleukin 16 (IL-16) or RANTES produced by thyroid associated ophthalmopathy fibroblasts to indicate the presence or severity.

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Formal drawings will be submitted.